

May 29, 2009

New Advisory Opinion

On May 28, 2009, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on one new opinion, summarized below. Click on the AO number to read the full text of the opinion.

[AO 2009-4](#), Application of General Statutes § 1-80 (b) to Members of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Running for Local Elective Office.

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that its members, as well as OSE staff members, may not hold or campaign (i.e., be a candidate for) local elective office.

Revolving Door Update

When an individual leaves state service, there are generally four Ethics Code provisions that follow the former state employee. Disclosing confidential information learned in state service for anyone's financial gain and "side switching" are lifetime bans. Representing a new employer before one's former agency and accepting a job with a party to a state contract, valued at over \$50,000 and signed in one's last year of state service, when one was substantially involved in the negotiation/award of said contract, are one-year bans. Please refer to pages 9 and 10 of the [Guide for Public Officials and State Employees](#) for a more thorough plain-language summary of these restrictions. Feel free to provide these pages to your departing employees. Please refer to Conn. Gen. Stat. § [1-84a](#) and Conn. Gen. Stat. § [1-84b](#) to review the revolving door provisions in the Statute.

A note on retirement: Retirement is still not a "major life event." This means that, for now, supervisors and subordinates (i.e., those up or down the chain of command) may not be involved in giving a group gift valued in excess of \$99.99 in celebration of a retirement. Please see Advisory Opinions [2006-6](#) and [2007-5](#).

The OSE currently has a proposed regulation that would add retirement to the definition of "major life event." This proposed regulation will be reviewed by the Legislative Regulations Review Committee in late June, and we will keep you posted on its progress.

Best regards,

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